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# Honors Program

## Director of Program

University-wide honors activities are available to students who demonstrate high academic achievement. Students with an excellent academic record receive an invitation to participate in the Honors Colloquium Series, Honors Essay Contest, the Annual Honors Convocation and other events that recognize and encourage the achievement of honors students. Participants may engage in as few or as many activities as they desire.

Students with a cumulative grade point average at or above 3.2 may enroll in available introductory level honors sections of courses such as history, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, English, chemistry, philosophy, biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, art history, philosophy, and physics. Students admitted to the university with test scores and/or high school records which predict university performance at honors levels receive invitations to enroll in honors sections. Nominations from secondary school teachers or counselors, and from faculty of the university may also result in invitations.

### Honors Residence Area

The Honors Residence Area in Residence Hall 2, fourth floor, offers housing to honors students who select this lifestyles option. Students live in suites with other students who share an interest in the challenges offered by an honors program. The Honors Center is located on the first floor. It includes offices of the director and the secretaries, a seminar classroom where some honors courses are scheduled, and a lounge for honors students. The program plans special events programing for the center.

Students who complete the 30-credit honors program graduate as **Commonwealth Scholars**.

These students must

- complete at least 15 credits of honors courses outside the field of their major;
- complete HON 201 Multidisciplinary Approaches to Research and Writing;
- complete 6 credits of upper level honors coursework in the major; and
- complete 6 credits of a senior honors project, or thesis in the major field during the senior year.

Students may also earn honors credits for study abroad, for approved independent study, through honors contracts, and in embedded honors courses.

The University Honors Program accepts up to 12 transferred credits in honors courses from other colleges and universities in the Massachusetts public system of higher education.

For further information about the University Honors or departmental honors programs, consult the Academic Regulations and Procedures chapter of this *Catalogue* and the various departmental sections.

**Louise Habicht** English

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## Honors Courses

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**HON 201** three credits  
**Multidisciplinary Approaches to Research and Writing**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of three honors courses; sophomore or junior standing; 3.2 or higher cumulative GPA  
Introduction to the models of scholarly reasoning and problem-solving used in various academic disciplines. This course enables honors students to develop their critical thinking abilities across several fields of inquiry, including the sciences. Focus is on a single topic.

**ENL 279** three credits  
**Tutoring Writing: Theory and Methods — Honors**

Prerequisites: Honors Program or 3.20 GPA; by nomination and invitation only  
The training course designed for the Honors Writing Fellows Program. The course provides students opportunities to learn about on-going theoretical conversations regarding composition instruction, collaborative tutoring, and writing pedagogy. Students learn to use their theoretical knowledge to determine strategies for assisting peers with their written work. One class hour per week is devoted to application in the Writing Center or in following papers from a class, taping, and analyzing tutorial sessions, and interviewing faculty members about writing in the disciplines.

**HON 395** three credits  
**Honors As Writing Fellow**

Prerequisites: ENL 279 and recommendation of ENL 279 instructor  
An advanced tutoring program for specially selected and trained honors students administered through the Writing/Reading Center and the University Honors Program. Writing fellows are assigned to work with students in a variety of disciplines as requested by instructors. Fellows work with about fifteen students in a class, providing written responses to first draft papers and holding individual conferences with students. Students may earn up to 6 credits by taking this course twice, following for two different courses.

**HON 396** three credits  
**Honors As Writing Fellow: Research**

Prerequisites: ENL 395 and recommendation of ENL 395 instructor  
A continuation of the writing fellows program for specially selected and trained honors students, administered through the Writing/Reading Center and the University Honors Program. Writing fellows taking this section are expected to follow a different

course than in HON 395. In addition, fellows serve as active mentors to students in ENL 279 and take on a serious research project in the area of tutoring, collaborative learning, writing across the curricula, or other writing program or instruction research.

**HON 399** one credit  
**Developing Advanced Research Skills**

Prerequisite: Honors program participant or permission of instructor  
Seminar for honors students preparing to write their honors theses. Specific topic will vary with instructor.

**HON 490/491** three credits each semester  
**Honors Project/Thesis I, II**

Research for and preparation of an honors thesis in partial fulfillment of the University Honors Program requirements for graduation as a Commonwealth Scholar, for students whose honors research is multi-disciplinary. In the first semester, the student engages in intensive reading and research appropriate to the thesis or project, culminating in a formal, written proposal. During the second semester the student completes the writing and other preparation of the thesis or project. Students must present their results in an appropriate public forum. Students typically register to continue to complete HON 491, and an intermediate grade of IP can be given in HON 490 until there is a final grade for HON 491 which can then also be applied also to HON 490. On the other hand, a final grade can be given at the conclusion of HON 490.

**HON 495** variable credit  
**Independent Study**

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department chairperson, and college dean  
Study under the supervision of a faculty

member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

## Honors Courses in the Disciplines

Honors courses in the university's subject disciplines are scheduled each semester with special criteria for size and use of a seminar format. Consult the *Course Listings* publication each semester.